



Lance Cpl. Justin J. Shemanski  
**Jerome Bates, Naval Hospital Beaufort forward, takes off toward the basket in a game against Beaufort Memorial Hospital during the Third Annual March of Dimes Charity Basketball Game at Beaufort High School April 16.**



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**Nigel Abrer, a forward for Beaufort Memorial Hospital, dribbles in front of a Navy defender.**

# NHB earns bragging rights in charity basketball game

**LANCE CPL. JUSTIN J. SHEMANSKI**  
*STAFF WRITER*

Beaufort Memorial Hospital and Naval Hospital Beaufort squared off at the Third Annual March of Dimes Charity Basketball Game at the Beaufort High School Gym April 16.

The yearly contest has become a great way to raise money for a worthy cause and has launched a healthy rivalry between the two area hospitals.

“The game began three years ago when I was Command Master Chief for Naval Hospital Beaufort and was also a volunteer for March of Dimes,” said Robert Bible, community manager for Tri-Command Housing and 2004 Chairman for March of Dimes Walk America, Northern Beaufort County.

“Patti Woodward, who is director of the Obstetrics Department at Beaufort Memorial Hospital and board member for March of Dimes, and I thought it would be a great idea to come up with

an event to raise funds for the March of Dimes,” said Bible.

Bible and Woodward based this idea on a similar event that he used to participate in when he was stationed at the Naval Hospital.

“Back in the early 90s, people from Naval Hospital Beaufort would play football against Beaufort Memorial in the ‘Band-Aid’ Bowl,” explained Bible. “The winner of this game would donate all the proceeds to the charity of their choice. Patti and I just expanded on this idea and made the funds raised go toward March of Dimes, and so far, it has been a great success.”

It seems the basketball game is becoming more successful every year it is held.

“The first year we did the game, we raised a little over \$100,” said Bible. “Last year we raised around \$200, and this year we made about \$40. These numbers made us realize that we can do even better next year.”

The amount of people attending the game has also grown each year.

“This year we had around one hun-

dred people show up.” Bible said. “The word is getting out and more fans are starting to attend.”

The two hospitals played a great game as their friends and family cheered them on from the stands.

“It was really a good game,” said Bible. “For a \$3 ticket you saw a great game that had the excitement, humor, and intensity that you would expect to find in a college-level game. I know the players enjoyed themselves. They had practiced for months to win that little trophy at the end.”

Lenard Walker, a forward for Beaufort Memorial Hospital, agreed with Bible.

“This is my first year playing in this game and I’m already looking forward to playing next year,” said Walker. “Navy is good competition and they have a lot of big, solid players.”

Navy, who has won both previous meetings, took this year’s game with a score of 35-25.

“They play for bragging rights and Navy is already looking forward to playing next year,” said Bible.

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